

former Hendry County Commissioner Janet Taylor. Her service in this capacity, as well as many others, has had a major impact on our community.

Born in Louisiana, Ms. Taylor moved to Florida at a young age and very quickly became involved in her community. She received her Bachelor's degree in political science from Palm Beach State College. In 1978, she joined the Clewiston Police Department and became the department's first female African American officer. She quickly rose through the ranks and reached Sergeant and Field Training Officer. She dedicated twelve years to serving and protecting those in Hendry County before retiring from the force.

Ms. Taylor was appointed Hendry County Commissioner in 1994 and served in this position for twenty-two years. As Commissioner, she represented the citizens of Hendry County and the State of Florida with passion and dedication. Her impressive resume includes serving as Chairperson of the Florida Association of Counties for twelve years as well as being a member of the National Association of Black County Commissioners. Ms. Taylor's public service extends beyond her work as Commissioner for Hendry County, as she previously served as a Government Liaison for Congressman Alcee Hastings.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Taylor for her remarkable service to Hendry County. Her dedication to the betterment of our community is admirable and has touched the lives of many. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

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TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"  
BALLENGER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bill Ballenger of Council Bluffs, Iowa for his leadership and vision in helping organize 13 honor flights that have taken nearly 3,500 Iowa veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials that were built in their honor.

Bill and his son Jeff saw a need to honor our country's aging veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War. The Ballengers have partnered with HyVee, Inc., Casey's General Stores, and others to raise more than \$3 million to fund this special endeavor. Carol Hagberg's father, the late James Snook, who was a World War II veteran said, "Dad felt so honored and privileged. We heard about the wonderful time he had over and over on the flight. He was very proud to have served his country."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Bill on his incredible efforts to organize and fund the 13 honor flights for our veterans. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Bill and in wishing him nothing but the very best.

RECOGNIZING BRAIN AWARENESS  
WEEK

**HON. TIM WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2018*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brain Awareness Week, a critical moment to discuss the impact of brain disorders on our nation and the urgent need for brain research and discovery.

Neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease have tremendous, devastating impact on individuals and families. My dad had Parkinson's, so I know firsthand the physical and financial toll it takes on patients and caregivers.

These diseases also pose a serious financial burden for the nation. Today, neurological diseases cost the United States an estimated \$800 billion a year. And that figure is projected to increase dramatically over the coming years.

An estimated 5.5 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's disease. In my home state of Michigan, 180,000 people age 65 and older have Alzheimer's. That is projected to increase more than 20 percent—220,000 Michiganders—by 2025. And barring medical breakthroughs, the number of Americans age 65 and older with Alzheimer's is estimated to reach 16 million by 2050. Between now and 2050, the cumulative cost of caring for people with Alzheimer's is projected to exceed \$20 trillion.

Parkinson's disease is the second-most common neurodegenerative disorder in the United States. Each year, 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's. The current total economic burden of the disorder is estimated to be about \$14.4 billion a year in the United States. And by 2040, the prevalence of Parkinson's is expected to more than double.

Thanks to advances in brain research, we have a deeper understanding of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and researchers recently identified possible environmental and genetic risk factors for Parkinson's.

However, further research is required to unravel the complexities of these neurological disorders. Without breakthroughs, we will not be able to develop new, more effective treatments. Currently available treatments provide relief from some Parkinson's symptoms, but do not halt the progression of Parkinson's. Alzheimer's is the only disease in the top 10 causes of death in the U.S. that cannot be prevented, slowed or cured.

This Brain Awareness Week, I extend my gratitude to the great scientific minds who are advancing our understanding of brain disorders. And let's redouble our efforts to find new breakthroughs in brain research and bring a healthier future in reach for our nation.

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DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY  
FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2018*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Statewide Founders Day Celebration in Green Bay, Wisconsin. With over 700 members committed to public service, the Wisconsin chapters of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority are a significant part of our community and I am proud to honor them.

For over 100 years, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has created programs and initiatives that focus on academic excellence, community service, economic development, and health and fitness, with a focus on the African-American community. "The Healthy Lifestyle Initiative—The Total Woman: Mind, Body, and Spirit" is one of the national programs led by Delta Sigma Theta that focuses on improving physical and mental health for its members and their communities. This program is just one example of how the women in the Sorority work to empower and support their communities.

From Friday, March 23, 2018 to Sunday, March 25, 2018, Green Bay, Wisconsin is proud to host the statewide Delta Sigma Theta Founders Day Celebration. This event will bring hundreds of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority members together to celebrate the organization's history and its numerous contributions since its founding on January 13, 1913.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in applauding the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the organization's commitment to support communities across the country and the world.

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RECOGNIZING WEBSTER, FLORIDA  
AS A PURPLE HEART CITY

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2018*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Webster, Florida as a Purple Heart City and honor the men and women who have selflessly served our country in the United States Armed Forces. It is with deep respect that I pause today to honor the brave men and women who were wounded in combat or gave their last full measure and made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

Created by General George Washington on August 7, 1782 to recognize a soldier's meritorious action, the Purple Heart is our nation's oldest decoration. Every person that serves in the United States Armed Forces makes great sacrifices for our country and our freedoms. Many have endured combat wounds as they fought for the freedoms of complete strangers, for individuals they had never met.

We owe our veterans a debt that we can never repay. For more than two centuries the United States military has protected Americans against our enemies and the enemies of our friends. Throughout this time, the valor, dignity, and courage of our men and women in uniform has remained strong. It is due to countless lives selflessly lived and lost in defense of our country that we can stand today, free and grateful.

I congratulate Mayor Carrie Davis, Mayor Pro-Tem Michael T. Foote, Commissioners Bobby Yost, Ana Vigoa, and Mike Harris, and most of all, the men and women of Webster who have served our great nation. It is truly an honor to serve the residents of Webster.